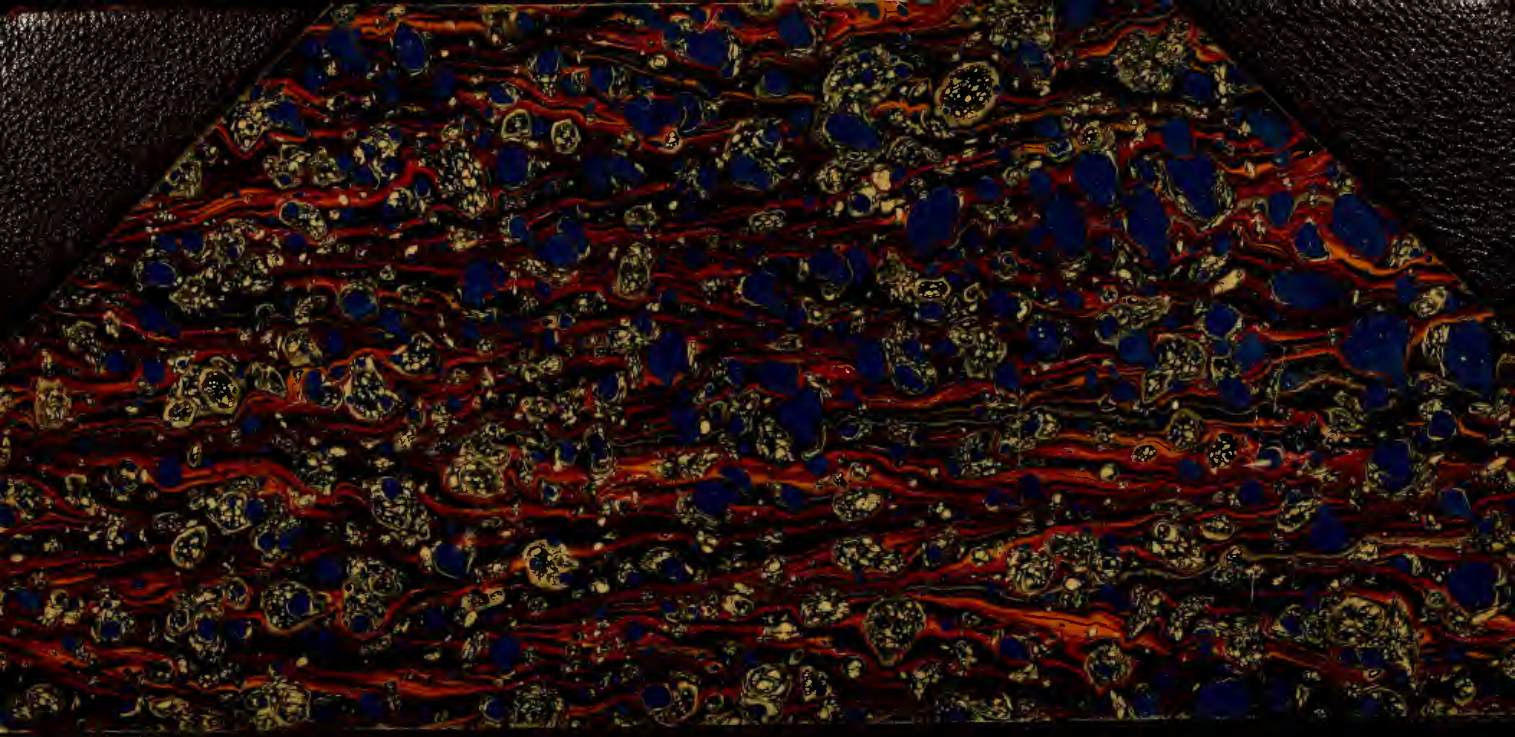

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MASSACRE OF

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NARRATIVE

OF THE

MASSACRE, BY THE SAVAGES, OF THE WIFE AND CHILDREN

OF

THOMAS BALDWIN,

Who, since the melancholy period of the destruction of his unfortunate family, has dwelt entirely alone, in a hut of his own construction, secluded from human society, in the extreme western part of the State of Kentucky.

"Great, indeed, have been my afflictions; but, as it was the will of Heaven, I ought not to murmur, but to say like him, whose afflictions were still greater, "the Lord gave and has taken away, and blessed be his name."

Annexed are some well written Moral Instructions, of the venerable BALDWIN, to the bereaved and afflicted, how, and where (from his own experience) they may find support and comfort amid the *severest trials* that may attend them in this "miserable world," and how to prepare themselves for endless enjoyments in that which is to come.

MARTIN AND WOOD, PUBLISHERS, NEW-YORK.
1835.

MASSACRE OF BALDWIN'S FAMILY BY THE SAVAGES !

The scenes which the above Plate is designed to represent (as described by Baldwin) are—Fig. 1 his House in flames.—2 a Savage in the act of Tomahawking Mrs. B. (his wife.)—3 his youngest child (a daughter eleven years of age) on her knees imploring a Savage to spare her life.—4 two Savages, one in the act of tomahawking and the other in that of scalping his oldest son.—5. Baldwin (the elder) intercepted and taken captive in his attempt to escape by flight.—6 the Savages burning his second son at a stake, around which they are dancing to and fro in savage triumph.—7 the Savages returning (with the unfortunate Baldwin and his only surviving child, captives) to their settlement.

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Entered according to an Act of Congress, in the year 1835, by Charles D. Wood, proprietor, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the southern district of New-York.

BALDWIN'S NARRATIVE.

In the extreme western part of the State of Kentucky, quite remote from any other inhabitant, there now dwells one of the most eccentric, and, apparently, one of the most contented and happy characters, that the western country affords. The true name of this extraordinary person, is THOMAS BALDWIN, although better known in the neighborhood in which he dwells, by that of "the *Christian Philosopher*," a title which cannot be considered ill applied to one who has drank so deep of the cup of sorrow, and borne his afflictions with so great a share of christian fortitude and resignation. It was in the latter part of November last, (1834) that the writer, in an excursion to the west, was induced, by the solicitation of a christian friend, to visit this venerable Patriarch (now in the 85th year of his age) in his secluded retreat. His humble, weather-beaten habitation, composed of rough materials, is one of his own construction, and where, as he stated, he had, with the exception of a few months, dwelt entirely alone, since the melancholy period when every member of his family (with one exception) fell victims to the ferocity of the merciless savages. His own relation of the murderous deed, together with other interesting particulars of his early adventures (which he freely and concisely imparted to the writer) are, in substance, as follows:

He was born in the State of North-Carolina, in 1748, where he early married and lived happily with his family, until the month of May 1780, when having formed an acquaintance with Capt. Daniel Boon, who had become quite celebrated in the Carolinas, for be-

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ing the first settler of that portion of the western wilderness, which now comprises the respectable State of Kentucky, as well as for the bravery by him displayed in his frequent skirmishes with the savages in that quarter, he was prevailed on by the Colonel, to accompany him, with his family, to that delightful and justly extolled section of the country—"Although (observed Baldwin) a remove with my young family to so great a distance, was attended with many inconveniences, yet, we finally reached the place of our destination in safety.

By the advice of my friend, the Colonel, we first took up our abode in the neighborhood of Boonsborough, (a small village so called) where I erected for myself and family, a temporary log cabin, with the pleasing prospect that I should be able to enjoy undisturbed, my favorite amusement, (the chase,) as the neighboring forests seemed then to abound with wild game of almost every kind, in abundance—but, too soon were my pleasing expectations, in this respect, blasted; for, although the hostile savages had met with many serious defeats, yet, they seemed unwilling peaceably to bury the hatchet, but continued to harrass, kill, and scalp the defenceless white inhabitants, whenever an opportunity presented. The situation of myself and family, were at this time peculiarly distressing, for it was not only unsafe to adventure far from my cabin in pursuit of game, but at the imminent danger of my life, that I attempted to cultivate the few acres of land that I had cleared for that purpose.

In the spring of 1781, they killed and scalped a woman and her two daughters, but half a mile distant from my dwelling; and soon after in the same neighborhood, made captives of two promising young lads of the ages of 10 and 14. A party of whites, of whom I was one, immediately collected and went in pursuit of their captors, and succeeded in overtaking them, but as they proved double our number, we were obliged in turn to retreat, without effecting the liberation of the two unfortunate youths, who, as they never afterward

returned to their friends, were, probably, put to death by the Indians, after their savage manner.

Emboldened by their success in thus putting their pursuers to flight, they now appeared almost daily, in still greater numbers, in view of our little settlement; and the more to provoke us, there amused themselves by brandishing their scalping knives, and imitating the dying groans of such of our unfortunate friends as had fallen into their hands, and on whom, in all probability, they had, in their last moments, inflicted the most savage cruelty! It was, at this critical juncture, thought advisable to form an union of all the effective white men that could be collected, and to save ourselves and families from sharing a similar fate, to equip ourselves in the best manner possible and march out against them. One hundred and fifty men were speedily collected, who, under the command of Colonels Boon, Todd, and Harland, marched in pursuit of them. We had penetrated to the bend of the main fork of Licking River, about forty-five miles from Lexington, where we fell in with a very considerable body of them, whom we put to flight, and being ignorant of their numbers, imprudently crossed the river in pursuit of them. The savages having reached an advantageous situation, came to a halt, and immediately formed in a line of battle to oppose us. The engagement was a warm one, and continued for about thirty minutes, when, being overpowered by numbers, we were obliged to give up the contest, with the loss of seventy of our men, a very few of whom were taken prisoners. Among the slain were the brave Colonels Todd and Harland, and a promising son of my friend, Col. Boon. We were informed on the day following, by one of our party who had been taken prisoner, but had succeeded in making his escape, that the savages, on ascertaining that their loss was four more than ours, delivered four of the unfortunate prisoners whom they had taken, into the hands of their young warriors to be put to death, after their barbarous manner.

This fatal and unexpected defeat had a great effect in damping the spirits of the survivors. Among the slain were some of the most brave and enterprising male inhabitants that our new settlements afforded. Many widows were thereby made, and almost every house in my immediate neighborhood became a house of mourning, while fear and sorrow seemed to fill the heart of every surviving inhabitant. Two days after, (having received information that the savages had retired, satisfied with their booty, to their settlements west,) we returned to the battle ground to bury our dead, and which presented a spectacle horrible to describe! The lifeless bodies of our friends, stripped, cut and mangled, and, in some instances, torn and half eaten by wild beasts, was the scene which presented itself to our view! We interred in one grave their mangled bodies, with as much decency as circumstances would admit, and returned, with sorrowful hearts, to our afflicted families.

The news of our defeat soon reached the State troops stationed on the frontiers, whereupon General Clark, (stationed at the falls of the Ohio,) sent us a reinforcement, with a request that we should pursue the savages to their very settlements; in which expedition I volunteered my services, and which, probably, was the chief cause of the unexpected attack on, and fatal destruction of my unfortunate family, eleven months from that period! We fell in with a very considerable body of the enemy within a few miles of their towns, to which they fled for safety; but finding themselves still closely pursued, they soon evacuated them and fled in disorder. Agreeable to the orders of our commander, we set fire to and reduced to ashes their deserted villages—Old Chilicothe, Willistown, Peccaway and New Chilicothe—destroyed all their young corn, and took several prisoners, and without the loss of a single man on our part. The savages, in consequence of the destruction of their settlements, &c. became still more enraged against the whites, and sought new opportunities to

revenge themselves. A few days afterward, one of them boldly entered a house a little distance from the settlement of Crab Orchard, in which were only a woman, her children, and a negro man, whom the savage seized; but the black fortunately having the most strength, threw the savage down, when the woman, with great courage, seized an axe and despatched him.

It was at about this period, that the Savages obtained the information that peace had taken place between the United States and Great Britain, and that the troops of the former were next to be employed in effecting their extermination—this had a good effect, insomuch that they expressed a willingness to bury the hatchet, and no longer disturb the peace of their white neighbors, if they could be permitted to rebuild their settlements, and their squaws suffered therein to remain unmolested, while they were engaged in hunting as formerly; proposals which were readily acceded to by the whites, and so strong did the savages feign a disposition on their part strictly to adhere thereto, that the former too soon threw themselves off their guard, and some of them, imprudently to remove to greater distances from their fortified settlements—the land (then wild and uncultivated) in the vicinity of the small spot which I now improve, being not only rich and fertile, but abounding with game, I was like others, so much disposed to confide in the professions of friendship of the savages, as then to select this spot as the permanent residence of my family, although less than one mile distant from an Indian settlement. My Indian neighbors appeared however pacifically disposed, for several months after my removal, when, unfortunately, in one of my excursions, meeting with a savage from a distant settlement, by whom I was not only recognised as one of Colonel Clark's party (who had assisted in destroying their villages) but one from whom on that occasion, he, as he hinted, strongly suspected that he had received a wound, the destruction of myself and family were by him no doubt at that

moment determined on! as, three days after, a little after sunrise, my family were alarmed by the discovery of a savage, frightfully painted and armed with tomahawk and scalping knife, secreted in some thick brush, within a few rods of my house—as soon as discovered, he gave the war whoop, which was probably a signal to nine or ten others, who at that moment rushed from a neighboring forest, and who, with a horrible shout, approached my dwelling with uplifted tomahawks.—I was at that instant employed within, and my poor affrighted family had scarcely time to close the door, when their savage foes were pounding and demanding entrance thereat—although they soon succeeded with their tomahawks in cutting a passage sufficiently large to admit of an entrance one at a time, yet, fearing probably of meeting with two warm a reception from those within, they preferred and adopted other means to dislodge us—unfortunately, the roof of my dwelling being composed of pine slabs, overlaid with straw and dry bark, they communicated fire thereto, which burned with such rapidity, as to leave us no other alternative than either to remain where we were, and become the victims of the devouring flames, or by attempting to escape therefrom, fall into the hands of the savages, from whom we had but little mercy to expect!—as but a moment's time was left us to decide, the latter was preferred. My family at that time was composed of myself, wife and three children (two sons and a daughter.) I was the last to leave the house, being engaged in reloading my rifle, yet had a clear and melancholly view of the fate of each unfortunate member of my family as they rushed from the flames; which presented a spectacle, heart-rending in the extreme to a husband and parent, who could afford them no assistance! My oldest son (armed with a hatchet) was the first to attempt to escape, and by dashing out the brains of the savage who first laid hold of him, succeeded in clearing his way, but was closely pursued by others, and made prisoner of; and his younger brother, in attempting to follow his example, was

knocked down, and while one of the merciless wretches was engaged in tearing off his scalp, he was dispatched by a blow from another! My beloved companion, his mother, shared a similar fate! and my little daughter (but eleven years of age) who left the house at the same time with her poor mother, was seized by another of the savage monsters, and while apparently in the very act of raising his tomahawk to dispatch her, she fell on her knees and entreated for mercy! Believing that she was about to share a similar fate of the others, and feeling determined that it should be at the expense of the life of him into whose hands she had fallen, I levelled my rifle at the head of the barbarian, which (fortunately for me perhaps) missed fire! fortunately I say, for had it taken effect, I should in all probability have been doomed to endure tortures, similar to those which were afterward inflicted on my unfortunate son! My house was now completely enwrapt in flames, and could no longer afford me a shelter, and as the savages were in a measure obscured by a thick body of smoke produced thereby, seemed at the instant to offer me some and the only chance to effect my escape by flight, and as no time was to be lost, I hastily threw off my coat and waistcoat, threw my loaded rifle into the flames, and sprang forth, and succeeded in outrunning several of them, but becoming exhausted, I was laid hold of by a stout savage, who (with his tomahawk raised ready to despatch me if I advanced a step further) demanded my surrender, to which I reluctantly acceded! I was immediately thereupon strongly pinioned, and led a short distance from where lay the slaughtered remains of my poor wife and child—in a few moments after my surviving son and daughter were brought to the same spot, and where we were compelled to remain, without being permitted to exchange a word with each other, until the blood-thirsty wretches had finished packing up the most valuable of my effects which they had saved from the flames.

Having to their satisfaction succeeded, in not only

destroying the lives of two innocent unoffending victims, but in the total destruction of my late peaceful dwelling, together with most of its contents, the fruits of many years industry, they took up their line of march in a direction west, compelling myself and two children to accompany them. They travelled with considerable speed until they reached (as I have since ascertained) a distance of twelve miles, when they came to a halt, and for what purpose, we were too soon made acquainted—it was to consult and agree in what manner they should inflict the greatest torture on my poor son, in retaliation for the death of the savage who had fallen by his hands! the mode finally agreed upon was to burn him alive, at a stake, after their usual manner of putting to death a great portion of their prisoners. Preparations were accordingly made; one end of a stake of about twelve feet in length was driven into the ground, and to which my poor ill-fated son was bound; some dry brush was next gathered and thrown about him, and piled to the height of his breast, and to which fire was then communicated, when their savage dance to and fro around the stake (attended with terriffic yells) commenced!—What at this moment were my feelings, and those of my little daughter (who were both compelled to stand and witness the shocking scene) I shall not attempt to describe,—parents alone can best judge! For half an hour my ears were pierced with the dreadful shrieks and dying groans of my poor child, in the course of which I twice fainted, and was brought to by the water thrown in my face by his tormentors; and who, to increase my distress, by their gestures gave me to understand that I was reserved for still greater torments; this was communicated to me by the savage to whom I have alluded, as being in all probability the instigator of the fatal and unprovoked attack on my innocent family—who, during the sufferings of my son, repeatedly cast on me a fiendlike frown, pointing at the same time to the wound on his head, which he believed was inflicted by me. In little more than half an hour

from the time that fire was communicated to the brush by which my son was enveloped, he ceased to breathe ; nor could I but feel thankful that his sufferings were at an end.

The Indians, after having slightly covered with earth all that remained unconsumed of their victim, (which was done probably to prevent its serving as a guide to their pursuers) they extinguished their fires, and preparatory to their again proceeding forth, bound upon my back a leathern pack, filled with a portion of the effects which my house contained. My burden was heavy, but I was obliged to bear it without a murmur, and indeed, my mind was so distracted with impressions of what might be the sufferings of my little daughter, my only surviving child, that I forgot my own. Before the close of the day, we were overtaken by another party of savages, twelve in number, on their return from Boonsboro', where they had been to exchange furs for whiskey. Although they in their intercourse with their "white brethren," had probably professed great friendship, yet, on this occasion, seemed, with one exception, as much to exult in my miseries and at the success of their tawny brethren, as they did themselves. My captors were forward on the occasion, to make a display of the booty which they had in their possession, and of some of which they made an exchange with their brethren for whiskey, of which they all drank so freely as to intoxicate themselves to that degree that they could proceed no further that night. I seized on this as one of the most favorable opportunities that might present to make my escape ; I was tightly pinioned, and compelled to prostrate myself on a blanket between two lusty Indians—unfortunately, they had placed my child at a considerable distance from me, and in a situation as to render it unsafe for me to attempt her rescue. About midnight (believing the two Indians by whom I was guarded to be sound asleep) I crept with as little noise as possible upon my knees two or three rods from them, when, finding that in doing this I had caused no alarm, I

arose upon my feet and commenced walking lightly from them, until I succeeded in reaching a distance which I believed beyond their hearing, when severing the cord with which I was bound, by sawing it across a rock, I commenced running, and continued so to do, until the break of day, when my strength failed me, and I found it impossible to proceed any further without seeking that repose which exhausted nature required. Although I had reached a distance as I judged, of twelve miles or more from where I left my savage foes, yet I was not without my fears, that I might have been early missed and pursued by them. I crept into a large hollow tree as a place promising the most safety; but the horror with which my mind was agitated, at the awful retrospect of the scenes which I had so recently witnessed, in the cold blooded butchery of my unfortunate family, prevented my obtaining the repose so much needed; and, what served to distract my feelings still more, was the reflection, that although I had been so fortunate as to effect my own escape, my youngest child was still in their power; and who, in consequence of my flight, might be doomed to endure tortures still greater, if possible, than those inflicted upon her unfortunate brother! the thoughts of her wretched condition, and what would probably be her feelings on finding herself deserted, by one to whom she had been taught to look for protection, caused me at the moment to reproach myself as one of the most cruel, most unnatural of parents! and to resolve, let the consequences be what they might, again to return and surrender myself a captive to my savage foes! but on further reflecting that it would not be in my power to afford the poor child any assistance, and that by again placing myself in their power, I might place her in a situation to be compelled to witness (as in the awful death of her brother) similar tortures inflicted upon her surviving parent, caused me to change my resolution, and to resolve that I would hasten to some friendly settlement, to obtain assistance to aid me in effecting her liberation—but,

after thus resolving, and proceeding at a slow pace with a heavy heart, a short distance, such was the distracted state of my feelings, that I more than once imagined that I distinctly heard the moans of the poor child, calling aloud for her father to return and deliver her from the hands of the frightful savages! Then would I stop, and again resolve, at all hazards, to return, and thus did I spend one half the day, without proceeding fifty rods either way, in resolving and re-resolving, when a thought suggested to my mind the propriety of appealing to Heaven, to decide for me, and to direct me to the way that I should go, resolving that after thus petitioning, I would without further delay, proceed that way that my inclination should lead me to. Upon my knees I offered up a fervent petition to this effect, and had scarcely concluded, when I was aroused from the suppliant position in which I had placed myself, by the barking of a dog, and soon after by the appearance of an Indian, running at full speed toward me! I now gave myself up as lost, not doubting but that he was one sent in pursuit of me. When within a few rods of me he seized his dog, and holding him with one hand tight by the mouth, to prevent his barking, and with the other seizing me by the arm, with a friendly smile led me to a thicket, where, requesting me to follow his example, prostrated himself flat on his belly, he still holding the dog in the manner mentioned. We had remained in this situation but a few minutes when the Indian pow-wow was heard, and very soon after their footsteps, as they passed, apparently in great haste, within a few rods of us. At the very moment my Indian friend (for such he proved to be) elevated his head a little to ascertain the course they were steering; as soon as fairly out of sight he arose and requesting me to follow him, took a different route from that of my pursuers. We travelled on an Indian trot to the distance of five or six miles, when my friend perceiving that I was suffering much from bodily fatigue, came to a halt, and being seated, drew from his pouch some parched corn,

of which he invited me to partake, and which proved a seasonable relief, as twenty hours had passed without my having tasted any food. As soon as the repast was over, he, in an intelligible manner as his broken English would admit of, gave me an account of what took place as soon as my escape was discovered, (which he represented was about an hour before day break) and the resolutions formed by the savages in what manner to dispose of me, should I be so unfortunate as again to fall into their hands. After a short consultation, my death was determined on in the manner following.—After having stripped and bound me to a stake, my naked body was to be pierced from head to foot with pitch pine splinters, of five or six inches in length, which when done, they were at one extreme end to be set on fire! and while thus dying by inches, they would no doubt by their savage yells have manifested all the satisfaction and gratification in my sufferings, so peculiar to them on such occasions. In accordance to this resolution, three or four of their number were set to work in preparing the splinters, &c. while the others set out in pursuit of me, guided by the dog before mentioned, who was put on my track, which animal fortunately was the property of the friendly Indian to whom I was indebted for my life. He was not of the party who had participated in the barbarity exercised toward my family, but one, who, on account of favors received, had been the uniform friend of the whites. It was his wish that I should escape, and to effect which, he had prevailed on the others by whom I was pursued to permit him to precede them a little distance, that he might the better encourage his dog to pursue my track, and while thus proceeding, was so fortunate as to fall in with me, and thereby save me from the worst of deaths!

Having become a little refreshed, by a promise of well rewarding him, I prevailed on my Indian benefactor to accompany me by the shortest route to Boonsboro', which we reached in safety the third day after.

It was there I met with many of my old friends and acquaintances, and who seemed deeply affected at the recital of the unhappy fate of my family, and to that degree that several of them kindly proffered their services to set out directly with me in pursuit of the savages, and to do all in their power to effect the liberation of my little daughter. Accordingly, they, to the number of seventeen, (including myself,) set out early the morning ensuing on the important expedition, accompanied by the friendly Indian as our guide. We were all well mounted, and by my earnest request, my friends consented to take the place of my late abode and that of the slaughter of my unfortunate family in their course; being anxious to perform for them the last office, should their mangled remains be found undisturbed by the wild beasts, or (what was still more to be dreaded) the barbarous savages. On the morning of the third day, we reached the melancholy spot, and found the bodies of my wife and son lying apparently in the same situation in which they were left. They were by my friends enclosed in some slabs, roughly and hastily put together, and deposited beneath that hemlock tree!" (the old gentlemen here pointing the writer to the tree and grave, which he afterward visited.) "This done, we proceeded forward with as much haste as possible, and in a few hours reached the place where the savage monsters had sacrificed my son, in the manner that I have described, and the succeeding day the place of our destination; where, from appearances, there could be no doubt the savages had encamped the night in which I made my escape from them. The stake to which they intended to have bound me was still standing, and near by more than a peck of splinters ready sharpened as described by my Indian friend; but the savages had either on or before our approach, fled, and thus were we sorely disappointed in not being able to recover my poor child! And as it was uncertain in what direction or to how great a distance they might have conveyed her, it was thought advisable by all to return.

Our Indian guide having expressed a wish to return to his own home, he was, in consideration of the important services rendered me, presented by my friends with the beast on which he rode, and other presents of about an equal value, with a solemn promise on his part, to do all in his power to search out, and effect the liberation of my captive child, if found living; and if not, to acquaint me as soon as possible with her fate, for which he was promised a specific sum as a reward.

We returned directly to Boonsboro' where I remained a welcome guest with my friends, until a peace was finally and permanently established with the neighboring frontier tribes of Indians; they having by treaty ceded their lands to a specified extent, to the United States, and removed to a country still further west.

As no further assaults from the savages were to be apprehended, and as no spot on earth appeared so dear to me as that in the immediate vicinity of where the mortal remains of a part of my family were reposing, I, soon after the conclusion of peace, again returned to this place, with the strong determination of making it the place of my permanent residence, until the day of my death—and that I would here dwell alone, secluded from all society, as the unmerciful savages had not left a single earthly connexion to abide with me. It was at that period that I erected with my own hands, and without any other assistance, the humble dwelling which I now improve; and where I think I can truly say, that I have dwelt more than fifty years perfectly contented, and at peace with the world. As my humble dwelling stands quite remote from any other human habitation, and as it has been my desire during my long and lonely residence here, to live as much secluded from human society as possible, I have bid welcome to but few visiters, and lest I should become in some degree an object of public curiosity, and be too much troubled by them, I have never, until now, consented to have my adventures made public. Hence it is not very probable that there

are, in this or the neighboring States, many who have any knowledge of me. Among the few by whom I have been visited, the twenty years last past, there was one whom I welcomed with joy—it was no other than my old respected friend, Col. Daniel Boon. It was, as he informed me, with a good deal of difficulty that he found out my retreat, and which was only two years previous to that of his death, and when on his return to his residence west, from his last visit to that part of the State, where he was once accustomed to pursue the bear and the buffalo, and not unfrequently to meet with, and engage in mortal combat, the uncivilized savage ; but which is now improved by thriving settlements, among which is the large and respectable towns of Lexington and Boonsboro', the foundations of which my aged and respected friend assisted in laying, at a time, (as he informed me) when while carrying a log on one shoulder, he was obliged to carry his loaded rifle on the other! The Colonel for the greater enjoyment of his favorite amusement, (the chase,) had, some years previous, removed far west, and strongly urged me to accompany him there; but as there could be no place so dear to me as that where were peacefully slumbering in death, the mortal remains of all except one of my beloved family, I declined to accept the invitation. I say that the remains of all but one, of my family, were then in yonder grave deposited, for it was my first object after providing for myself a shelter, to remove and deposit in the same grave, with the relics of his murdered relatives, those of my unfortunate son, which lay buried near the spot where he suffered, and which I disinterred, and in imitation of our first parent Adam, in the performance of his last office for his beloved son Abel, I bore upon my shoulders the precious remains of one whom I as tenderly loved! And I would to God, that I could have thereto added those of my still more unfortunate child, which, in all probability is doomed to slumber in what was then a wild wilderness, far distant from the residence of any christian friend. Such indeed, I

have much reason to believe was the case, as six months after my remove to this place, I was once more visited by my Indian friend, to whom, as I observed, I was so much indebted for the salvation of my life. Agreeable to his promise, he had travelled a great distance to furnish me with the melancholy tidings of the death of my little daughter, and the last of my ill-fated family! The particulars relating thereto which he communicated, were, that when the savages arrived at their settlement, she was claimed by one of their principal chiefs, and by whom she was conveyed to a settlement still farther west and there presented to a young chief, his son, whose squaw she was designed to have been when she arrived at a suitable age! But an all-merciful God, in manifestation of his promise that he would be a father to the fatherless, was pleased to frustrate their wicked designs, by taking the helpless victim to himself, in three or four months after my separation from her! Although the sad news of the death of my poor unfortunate child caused me much sorrow, yet, it would have been still more aggravating to have learned that she still remained in bondage, subject to the will and cruel treatment of a band of wretches, who delight in nothing so much as that of inflicting torture on those who become their captives."

"Thus, kind sir, have I so far complied with your request, as to indulge you with a short narrative of the deep afflictions to which I was subjected in the early part of my life: and should you now wish to know, from what source I have been able to obtain consolation and support in the midst of my sorrows, I would point you to that sacred book"—the old gentleman here pointing to an octavo Bible, lying upon his table, and which bore the marks of having been faithfully read—"from that" he continued, "I think I have obtained that comfort, and drawn that instruction, in my most sorrowful moments, which no human being could impart. It has taught me not only the way to eternal life, but has taught me that the many sore afflictions

of which it has pleased my blessed Father in Heaven to make me the subject, was intended for my spiritual good! It has taught me that I ought not in the hour of adversity, to depend too much on the arm of flesh; but that my trust should be in Him, alone, who is mighty to save. With him how oft have I, beneath this humble roof, held sweet communion! The happiness which I have enjoyed in so doing is beyond my power to express. How much more real happiness might be experienced by that portion of my fellow-mortals who are continually complaining of their afflictions, and the miseries to which they are daily exposed, in this "miserable world," if they would seek to draw it from its only proper source. It is unreasonable for them to expect to be truly happy in this frail world unless they be truly pious, and reconciled to the will of God. How little cause would they find to murmur, let their trials in life be what they may, if they would for a moment reflect on the eternal weight of glory which is laid up for them, on condition of their keeping the word of divine patience to the end of their journey.

It is the blessed religion which I would recommend as worthy to be cherished by all, that prepares their minds for all the events of this inconstant state, and instructs them in the nature of true happiness—afflictions will not then attack them by surprize, and will not therefore overwhelm them—they are not then overcome by disappointment, when that which is mortal dies; they meet the changes in their lot without unmanly dejection—in the multitude of our sorrows in this world of misery, what but Religion can afford us consolation? It assures us that through all our disappointment and wo, there is a friend present with us, on whose affection, wisdom, power, and goodness, we can perfectly rely; and that an infinitely merciful and powerful Protector sustains us, guiding our erring footsteps, and strengthening our feeble spirits. He permits no afflictions to approach us, but for some gracious and merciful purpose; to excite in us an earnest

solicitude for our salvation, to reclaim us from error, or to subdue some favorite passion—subject to the control of this Almighty Guardian, all the trials of life are designed to establish our faith, to increase our humble dependence, to perfect our love and fortify our patience, and to make us meet for the inheritance of glory. So long as our Heavenly Father is possessed of infinite wisdom to understand perfectly what is best for his children, and of infinite mercy to will all that he sees to be best for them, shall we not choose to have him do what he pleases? Dark are the ways of Providence while we are wrapped up in mortality—but, convinced there is a God, we must hope and believe, that all is right.

Although it has been my lot to drink deep of the cup of sorrow, yet I have never found my heart inclined to charge God foolishly—a gracious heart elevates nearer and nearer to God in affliction, and can justify him in his severest strokes, acknowledging them to be all just and holy—and hereby the soul may comfortably evidence to itself its own uprightness and sincere love to Him; yea, it hath been of singular use to some souls, to take right measures of their love to God in such trials; He that appointed the seasons of the year, appointed the seasons of our comfort in our relations; and as those seasons cannot be altered, no more can these;—all the course of Providence is guided by an unalterable decree; what falls out casually to our apprehension, yet falls out necessarily in respect to God's appointment—admit that he hath sorely afflicted us for our sins, by bereaving us by a sudden stroke of death of our nearest and dearest friends, yet there is no reason that we should be too much cast down under our severe afflictions, for it may be the fruits of his love to, and care of our souls, for to the afflicted he says, "whom I love, I rebuke and chasten."

That our greatest afflictions, so considered, many times prove our greatest blessings, is probably known by experience to many. It was my heavy afflictions, in being so suddenly and lamentably deprived of my

family, that led me to prefer a life of retirement; and in that retirement from the busy scenes of the world, I was led to engage more seriously and earnestly in the perusal of the Holy Scriptures, whereby I was taught to seek a balm in that blessed RELIGION, that has never failed to sustain me in my most solitary moments; and by my own experience, I can assure all, the rich and the poor, the happy and the miserable, the healthy and the sick, in short, all descriptions of persons, whatever may be their station or their circumstances in this life, that they will experience infinite advantage in a religious retirement from the world: and while thus situated, whatever their troubles and afflictions may be, they ought to bear them without a murmur. A good man can never be miserable, who cheerfully submits to the will of Providence. To be truly happy in this world, we must manifest a quiet resignation to the appointments of an impartial God. If while we remain inhabitants of this "miserable world," if we quietly submit to the will of, and exercise a true love to Him, we have great reason to believe that we shall hereafter be permitted to taste higher delights, and experience a degree of happiness that this frail world does not afford. As our prospects close not with this life, but are extended to the future, it is necessary that we should make provision for that also; none ought therefore to postpone the business of Religion, till night overtakes them—the night of death—when no man can work. Religion consoles the aching heart of the afflicted, and reconciles the unhappy to their misfortunes—the grieved parent who has buried his earthly comfort, his beloved partner and darling children, in the bosom of the valley, is comforted and cheered by the flattering persuasions of Religion—he is assured by it that if he lives faithful to Christ, he shall revisit his beloved friends in that blessed place where dwells every felicity, and an antidote for every care and painful sensation. To you, sir, and to all, I would then say, whatever may be your or their rank in life, if you wish to be happy in this world, and to se-

cure a certainty of being infinitely more so in the world to come, I pray thee cherish RELIGION. That this may be the happy and final choice of all, is and ever shall be the prayer of their aged friend and well wisher. THOMAS BALDWIN."

Although there was a remarkable degree of singularity manifested in the personal appearance, and habits of life, of the venerable narrator (BALDWIN) yet, he appeared (as he professed himself to be) perfectly reconciled to his lonely condition; repeatedly declaring his unwillingness to exchange conditions with the wealthiest man on earth! His dwelling was of very simple construction, yet, by frequent patching, was made sufficiently tight to protect him from wet or unpleasant weather. The few articles of furniture and cooking utensils which it contained, were sufficient for his purpose, although ancient and of trifling value. A cow was the only domestic animal which he possessed, (when visited by the writer,) on the milk of which, and the produce of a few acres of land, which he improved, he alone depended for subsistence. "Nothing (he observed) afforded him so much satisfaction in his retired life, as the daily perusal of the Holy Scriptures, and the frequent visits which he made to the consecrated spot, where lay entombed the mortal remains of his once beloved family; and where, he expressed a wish, his own might be permitted to repose. Although in the 85th year of his age, he appeared to enjoy remarkable good health, and to possess a constitution less impaired than that of many others much younger; and of a memory so good, as to enable him to recount very readily, and it is to be presumed, correctly, the most remarkable events of his early life.—Although averse to having much personal intercourse with his fellow-beings, yet he expressed a great deal

of regard for them, as respected both their temporal and spiritual welfare. He, in very feeling terms, expressed his surprize and sorrow, that there should be so much clashing and diversity of opinion as to the manner in which the Almighty was to be most acceptably worshipped! when their Bibles taught them, that all he required, was the gift of the whole heart, to be loved supremely, and as a Spirit to be worshipped in spirit and in truth. He thought it lamentable that they should engage in disputes about that blessed gospel which was designed to produce nothing but peace on earth. As regarded their present happiness, he believed that there were a very considerable portion of mankind, who were in a degree, authors of the miseries of which they so unjustly complained; too many who sought for happiness where it was seldom found, to wit, in the wealth and honors of the world! He believed that it was the will of Divine Providence, that an equal degree of happiness should be enjoyed by all, of every class; and that there was as great a share allotted to the poor, as to the more wealthy, if they could be made sensible of it. It was his belief that true and permanent happiness was to be found alone in the Religion of a crucified Redeemer, and his belief in the truth of which was communicated with a degree of confidence, too strong to admit of a doubt of his sincerity; and, in regard to which, he had for his own satisfaction, committed to paper most of the remarks contained in the foregoing pages, of which the writer was permitted to take a copy, and which he hopes (if perused with the attention they deserve) will prove profitable to the reader; and, although the important events, as recorded in the former part of the narrative were those of years past and gone, yet as they have never been before made thus public, they cannot but prove interesting to the reader, in acquainting him with the many difficulties that attended those, who, at that period, at the hazard of their lives, first attempted to explore and form settlements in the western wilds; and which, through their enterprise, one of the most

respectable States has been added to the Union; which, although then was little more than the abiding place of an uncivilized race of beings, may now, with propriety, boast of a population equal to that of any of her sister States in the west. It was this spirit of enterprise, with a natural propensity to hunt the wild game of the western forests, that prompted the famous Col. Boon (the early companion of Baldwin) to resign his domestic happiness, and to bid adieu to his family and peaceful habitation, in North-Carolina, to visit a section of the country then as wild and uncultivated as any portion of that bordering on the Pacific Ocean—although as regarded the excellence of the soil, he found it far surpassing his expectations, yet he found himself most violently opposed by those who were unwilling peaceably to yield their claims to a country bequeathed to them by their fathers; hence the difficulties with which he had to contend, before a peaceable settlement could be effected, were as great as those experienced by the unfortunate narrator, as the following extract from the close of a journal which he kept on that occasion, plainly shows. He concludes thus: "Two darling sons and a brother I have lost by savage hands, which have also taken from me forty valuable horses, and abundance of cattle—many dark and sleepless nights have I spent, separated from the cheerful society of men, scorched by the summer's sun, and pinched by the winter's cold, an instrument ordained to settle the wilderness!"

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